THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA) : (a) to (c) The offences under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 are cognizable. Hence, the police are already empowered to investigate such offences.

The North-Eastern region continues to be vulnerable to drug trafficking. However, the extent of drug addiction in the area is not known as no authentic report is available.

Various aggressive counter-measures are taken by the Government from time to time. The States and Union Territories have been impressed upon the need for taking necessary measures for curbing the drug menace. They have further been requested to take full advantage of the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Ordinance, 1988, promulgated on 4th July, 1988. Under this Ordinance, so far, of 168 detention orders issued, 144 persons had been detained for drug-related crimes. Further, the police officers of the North-Eastern States have been entrusted the functions of the Customs Officers under the Customs Act, 1962 for the purpose of provisions of Chapter IVB of that Act.

Lack of police mobility in States due to non-supply of vehicles

3933. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that police mobility in as many as 15 States has been found unsatisfactory due to non-supply of vehicles; and

(b) if so, what steps the Central Government have taken to help the States in improving their police mobility ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) The subject 'public order' and 'police' are included in the State list of the VIIth Schedule to the Constitution. The State Governments are primarily responsible for improving the working of the police. The Government of India have, however, been supplementing their efforts by providing financial assistance to the State Governments under the scheme of modernisation of State Police forces for incurring expenditure under the items like mobility, wireless equipment, scientific aid for investigation, training equipment and computerisation of crime records.

It is for the State Governments to improve the police mobility by providing more vehicles to the police department.

Implementation of Himalayan Afforestation Scheme

3934. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the proposed Rs. 100 crore Himalayan Afforestation Scheme is unlikely to stop the desertification of the Himalayan region; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to successfully implement the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) The Implementation Committee for Commemoration of 40th anniversary of India's Independence and Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru centenary is considering a proposal with an outlay of Rs. 100 crores for reforestation of the Himalayas. As this scheme envisages reforestation of the Himalayas and the catchment areas of the major rivers to improve the ecology and the environment, it would not be correct to state that this Scheme, if implemented, is unlikely to stop desertification of the Western Himalayas

(b) Does not arise.